

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for establishing a link between network devices comprising the steps of:

a first network device transmitting a first message advertising a first set of capabilities to a second network device;

the first network device negotiating with the second network device to determine a first link speed based upon the first set of capabilities;

the first network device attempting to establish a link at the first link speed with the second network device;

the first network device failing to establish a link that can support data communications at the first link speed with the second network device;

the first network device downgrading the first set of capabilities to a second set of capabilities, wherein the second set of capabilities does not include the first link speed;

the first network device transmitting a second message advertising the second set of capabilities to the second network device;

the first network device negotiating with the second network device to determine a second link speed that is less than the first link speed;

the first network device and the second network device establishing a link to support the data communications at the second link speed; and

the first network device transmitting data to the second network device via the link at the second link speed.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first set of capabilities

includes 1000 BASE-T operations.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first set of capabilities includes 100 BASE-T operations.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first set of capabilities includes full-duplex operations.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first set of capabilities includes half-duplex operations.

21. (currently amended) A method for operating a pair of local area network devices to establish a link, the method comprising:

the pair of local area network devices determining a set of commonly supported operating parameters by performing auto negotiation operations, the commonly supported operating parameters including a first link speed;

the pair of local area network devices attempting to establish a link according to the set of commonly supported operating parameters using link establishment criteria corresponding to the commonly supported operating parameters including the first link speed; and

when the attempt to establish [the] a link according to the set of commonly supported operating parameters using the link establishment criteria corresponding to the commonly supported operating parameters including the first link speed fails:

the pair of local area network devices auto negotiating to determine a reduced set of commonly supported operating parameters, the reduced set of commonly supported operating parameters including a second link speed that is less than the first link speed;

the pair of local area network devices establishing a link using link establishment criteria corresponding [according] to the reduced set of commonly supported operating parameters at the second link speed; and

the pair of local area network devices exchanging data at the second link speed.

22. (currently amended) A method for operating a pair of local area network devices to establish a link, the method comprising:

a first local area network device of the pair of local area network devices advertising a first local area network device set of supported operating parameters;

a second local area network device of the pair of local area network devices advertising a second local area network device set of supported operating parameters;

the first local area network device and the second local area network device negotiating a set of commonly supported operating parameters from the first local area network device set of supported operating parameters and the second local area network device set of supported operating parameters;

the pair of local area network devices attempting to establish a link according to the set of commonly supported operating parameters; and

when the attempt to establish [the] a link according to the set of commonly supported operating parameters fails and resultantly the pair of local area network devices fail to service data communications according to the set of commonly supported operating parameters:

the first local area network device of the pair of local area network devices advertising a reduced first local area network device set of operating parameters;

the pair of local area network devices determining a reduced set of commonly supported operating parameters from the reduced first local area network device set of operating parameters and the second local area network device set of operating parameters;

the pair of local area network devices establishing a link according to the reduced set of commonly supported operating parameters and servicing data communications according to the reduced set of commonly supported operating parameters; and

the pair of local area network devices exchanging data according to the reduced set of commonly supported operating parameters.

30. (currently amended) A semiconductor component that communicates via a wired Ethernet link with a communication device supporting two or more communication rates, the semiconductor component comprising:

Ethernet transceiver circuitry that supports communication at a plurality of rates;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry sending a first advertisement including a first indication of at least one of the plurality of rates to the communication device;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry attempts to establish a link with the communication device at a first rate that conforms to the first advertisement, the first rate having a corresponding counterpart in the two or more communication rates of the communication device;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry failing to establish [the] a link with the communication device that supports data communications at the first rate ;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry sending a second advertisement to the communication device, wherein the second advertisement includes a second indication of at least one of the plurality of rates, the second indication differing from the first

indication, the second advertisement constructed based upon the failure of the attempt to establish the link with the communication device at the first rate;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry establishing a link with the communication device at the second rate that conforms to the second advertisement, the second rate having a corresponding counterpart in the two or more communication rates of the communication device; and

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry communicating data to the communication device via the link at the second rate.

31. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 30, wherein the wired Ethernet link comprises Category 5 cabling.

32. (previously amended) The semiconductor component of claim 30, further comprising a protocol that governs communication over the wired Ethernet link, and the protocol being based on IEEE 802.3-2000.

33. (previously amended) The semiconductor component of claim 32, wherein the first advertisement and the second advertisement do not conflict with IEEE 802.3-2000.

34. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 30, wherein the plurality of rates comprise one thousand (1000) Mbps.

35. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 34, wherein the plurality of rates further comprise one hundred (100) Mbps.

36. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 30, wherein the first indication identifies each of the plurality of rates.

37. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 36, wherein the second indication does not identify the first rate.

38. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 30, wherein the second indication does not identify those of the plurality of rates that are greater than the first rate.

39. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 38, wherein the second indication also does not identify the first rate.

40. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 30, wherein the first indication identifies at least a highest rate of the plurality of rates.

41. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 40, wherein the second indication does not identify the highest rate.

42. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 30, wherein the second rate is greater than the first rate.

43. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 30, wherein the plurality of rates include three or more rates.

44. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 43, wherein the first rate is greater than the second rate.

45. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 43, wherein the second rate is greater than the first rate.

46. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 43, wherein the first rate is a greatest rate of the plurality of rates and the second rate is less than the greatest rate of the plurality of rates.

47. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 43, wherein the first rate is less than a greatest rate of the plurality of rates and the second rate is greater than the first rate.



48. (currently amended) A semiconductor component that communicates via a wired Ethernet link with a communication device supporting two or more rates, the semiconductor component comprising:

Ethernet transceiver circuitry that supports communication at a plurality of rates;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry producing a first indication that identifies the plurality of rates;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry sending the first indication to the communication device via the wired Ethernet link;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry attempts to establish a communication link at a first rate consistent with the first indication and having a corresponding counterpart in the two or more rates of the communication device;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry failing to establish [the] a communication link that supports data communications at the first rate;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry sending a second indication to the communication, the second indication identifying at least one of the plurality of rates but not the first rate;

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry establishing a communication link with the communication device at a second rate consistent with the second indication and having a corresponding counterpart in the two or more rates of the communication device; and

the Ethernet transceiver circuitry transmitting data to the communication device at the second rate.

49. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 48, wherein the wired Ethernet link comprises Category 5 cabling.

50. (previously amended) The semiconductor component of claim 48, further comprising a protocol that governs communication over the wired Ethernet link, and the protocol being based on IEEE 802.3-2000.

51. (previously amended) The semiconductor component of claim 50, wherein the operation of the semiconductor component does not conflict with IEEE 802.3-2000.

52. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 48, wherein the plurality of rates comprise one thousand (1000) Mbps.

53. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 52, wherein the plurality of rates further comprise one hundred (100) Mbps.

54. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 48, wherein the second indication does not identify those of the plurality of rates that are greater than the first rate.

55. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 54, wherein the second indication does not identify a highest rate of the plurality of rates.

56. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 48, wherein the second rate is greater than the first rate.

57. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 48, wherein the second rate is less than the first rate.

58. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 48, wherein the plurality of rates include three or more rates.

59. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 58, wherein the first rate is greater than the second rate.

60. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 58, wherein the second rate is greater than the first rate.

61. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 48, wherein the first rate is a greatest rate of the plurality of rates and the second rate is less than the greatest rate of the plurality of rates.

62. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 48, wherein the first rate is less than a greatest rate of the plurality of rates and the second rate is greater than the first rate.

63. (currently amended) A semiconductor component that communicates via a wired Ethernet link with a communication device supporting two or more communication rates, the semiconductor component comprising:

Ethernet transmitter circuitry that supports communication at a plurality of rates;

Ethernet receiver circuitry that supports communication at the plurality of rates;

auto negotiation circuitry that produces a first advertisement comprising a first indication of at least one of the plurality of rates;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry sending the first advertisement to the communication device;

the Ethernet receiver circuitry receiving an indication of the two or more communication rates of the communication device;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry attempting and failing to establish a communication link at a first rate that conforms to the first advertisement and the two or more communication rates of the communication device and resultantly failing to communicate data with the communication device at the first rate;

the auto negotiation circuitry producing a second advertisement comprising a second indication of at least one of the plurality of rates, the second indication differing from the first indication;

the Ethernet transmitter sending the second advertisement to the communication device upon a failure in establishing the communication link at the first rate;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry establishing a communication link at a second rate that conforms to the second advertisement and the two or more communication rates of the communication device; and

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry communicating data with the communication device at the second rate that is less than the first rate.

64. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 63, wherein the wired Ethernet link comprises Category 5 cabling.

65 (previously amended) The semiconductor component of claim 63, further comprising a protocol that governs communication over the wired Ethernet link, and the protocol being based on IEEE 802.3-2000.

66. (previously amended) The semiconductor component of claim 65, wherein the first advertisement and the second advertisement do not conflict with IEEE 802.3-2000.

67. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 63, wherein the plurality of rates comprise one thousand (1000) Mbps.

68. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 67, wherein the plurality of rates further comprise one hundred (100) Mbps.

69. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 63, wherein the first indication identifies each of the plurality of rates.

70. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 69, wherein the second indication does not identify the first rate.

71. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 63, wherein the second indication does not identify those of the plurality of rates that are greater than the first rate.

72. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 71, wherein the second indication also does not identify the first rate.

73. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 63, wherein the first indication identifies at least a highest rate of the plurality of rates.

74. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 73, wherein the second indication does not identify the highest rate.

75. (currently amended) The semiconductor component of claim 63, wherein the second rate is 10 Mbps [greater than] and the first rate is 100 Mbps.

76. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 63, wherein the plurality of rates include three or more rates.

77. (currently added) The semiconductor component of claim 76, wherein the second rate is 10 Mbps [greater than] and the first rate is 100 Mbps.

78. (currently added) The semiconductor component of claim 76, wherein the second rate is 100 Mbps [greater than] and the first rate is 1000 Mbps.

79. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 76, wherein the first rate is a greatest rate of the plurality of rates and the second rate is less than the greatest rate of the plurality of rates.

80. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 76, wherein the first rate is less than a greatest rate of the plurality of rates and the second rate is greater than the first rate.

81. (currently amended) A semiconductor component that communicates via a wired Ethernet link with a communication device supporting two or more rates, the semiconductor component comprising:

Ethernet transmitter circuitry that supports communication at a plurality of rates;

Ethernet receiver circuitry that supports communication at the plurality of rates;

auto negotiation circuitry that produces a first indication that identifies the plurality of rates;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry sending the first indication to the communication device via the wired Ethernet link;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry attempting and failing to establish a communication link with the communication device at a first rate consistent with the first indication and having a corresponding counterpart in the two or more rates of the communication device and resultantly failing to communicate data with the communication device at the first rate;

the auto negotiation circuitry producing and the Ethernet transmitter circuitry sending a second indication to the communication device upon a failure to establish [acceptable] the communication link at the first rate, the second indication identifying at least one of the plurality of rates but not the first rate;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry establishing a communication link with the communication device at a second rate consistent with the second indication and having a corresponding counterpart in the two or more rates of the communication device; and



the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry communicating data with the communication device at the second rate that is less than the first rate.

82. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 81, wherein the wired Ethernet link comprises Category 5 cabling.

83. (previously amended) The semiconductor component of claim 81, further comprising a protocol that governs communication over the wired Ethernet link, and the protocol being based on IEEE 802.3-2000.

84. (previously amended) The semiconductor component of claim 83, wherein the operation of the semiconductor component does not conflict with IEEE 802.3-2000.

85. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 81, wherein the plurality of rates comprise one thousand (1000) Mbps.

86. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 85, wherein the plurality of rates further comprise one hundred (100) Mbps.

87. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 81, wherein the second indication does not identify those of the plurality of rates that are greater than the first rate.

88. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 81, wherein the second indication does not identify a highest rate of the plurality of rates.

89. (currently amended) The semiconductor component of claim 81, wherein the second rate is 10 Mbps [greater than] and the first rate is 100 Mbps.

90. (currently amended) The semiconductor component of claim 81, wherein the [second rate is less than the] first rate is 1000 Mbps and the second rate is less than 1000 Mbps.

91. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 81, wherein the plurality of rates include three or more rates.

92. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 91, wherein the first rate is greater than the second rate.

93. (currently amended) The semiconductor component of claim 91, wherein the second rate is 10 Mbps [greater than] and the first rate is 100 Mbps.

94. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 81, wherein the first rate is a greatest rate of the plurality of rates and the second rate is less than the greatest rate of the plurality of rates.

95. (currently amended) The semiconductor component of claim 81, wherein the first rate is less than a greatest rate of the plurality of rates [and the second rate is greater than the first rate].

96. (currently amended) A wired Ethernet communication system comprising:  
a first Ethernet communication device that supports communication at a plurality of rates;

a second Ethernet communication device coupled to the first Ethernet communication device via a wired Ethernet link and supporting two or more communication rates;

the first Ethernet communication device producing a first advertisement comprising a first indication of at least one of the plurality of rates;

the first Ethernet communication device sending the first advertisement to the second Ethernet communication device;

the first Ethernet device and the second Ethernet device attempting and failing to establish a communication link at a first rate that conforms to the first advertisement, the first rate having a corresponding counterpart in the two or more communication rates of the communication device and the first Ethernet device and the second Ethernet device resultantly failing to communicate data with one another at the first rate;

the first Ethernet communication device producing a second advertisement comprising a second indication of at least one of the plurality of rates, the second

indication differing from the first indication, the second advertisement constructed based upon a result of the attempt and failure to establish a communication link at the first rate;

the first Ethernet device sending the second advertisement to the second Ethernet device upon a failure to establish [acceptable] the communication link at the first rate;

the first Ethernet device and the second Ethernet device establishing a communication link at a second rate that conforms to the second advertisement, the second rate having a corresponding counterpart in the two or more communication rates of the communication device; and

the first Ethernet device and the second Ethernet device [exchanging] communicating data with one another via the communication link at the second rate.

97. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 96, wherein the wired Ethernet link comprises Category 5 cabling.

98. (previously amended) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 96, further comprising a protocol that governs communication over the wired Ethernet link, and the protocol being based on IEEE 802.3-2000.

99. (previously amended) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 98, wherein the first advertisement and the second advertisement do not conflict with IEEE 802.3-2000.

100. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 96, wherein the plurality of rates comprise one thousand (1000) Mbps.

101. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 100, wherein the plurality of rates further comprise one hundred (100) Mbps.

102. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 96, wherein the first indication identifies each of the plurality of rates.

103. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 102, wherein the second indication does not identify the first rate.

104. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 96, wherein the second indication does not identify those of the plurality of rates that are greater than the first rate.

105. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 104, wherein the second indication also does not identify the first rate.

106. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 96, wherein the first indication identifies at least a highest rate of the plurality of rates.

107. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 106, wherein the second indication does not identify the highest rate.

108. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 96, wherein the first rate is greater than the second rate.

109. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 96, wherein the plurality of rates include three or more rates.

110. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 109, wherein the first rate is greater than the second rate.

111. (currently amended) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 109, wherein the second rate is 100 Mbps [greater than] and the first rate is 1000 Mbps.

112. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 109, wherein the first rate is a greatest rate of the plurality of rates and the second rate is less than the greatest rate of the plurality of rates.

113. (currently amended) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 109, wherein the first rate is 100 Mbps [less than a greatest rate of the plurality of rates] and the second rate is 10 Mbps [greater than the first rate].

114. (currently amended) A wired Ethernet communication system comprising:  
a first Ethernet communication device that supports communication at a plurality of rates;

a second Ethernet communication device coupled to the first Ethernet communication device via a wired Ethernet link and supporting two or more communication rates;

the first Ethernet communication device producing a first indication that identifies the plurality of rates;

the first Ethernet communication device sending the first indication to the second communication device via the wired Ethernet link;

the first Ethernet communication device and the second Ethernet communication device attempting and failing to establish a communication link at a first rate consistent with the first indication and having a corresponding counterpart in the two or more rates of the communication device and resultantly failing to communicate data to one another at the first rate;

the first Ethernet communication device producing and sending a second indication to the second Ethernet communication device upon a failure to establish [acceptable] a communication link at the first rate, the second indication identifying at least one of the plurality of rates but not the first rate;

the first Ethernet communication device and the second Ethernet communication device establishing a communication link at a second rate consistent with the second indication and having a corresponding counterpart in the two or more rates of the communication device; and

the first Ethernet communication device and the second Ethernet communication device exchanging data on the established communication link at the second rate.

115. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 114, wherein the wired Ethernet link comprises Category 5 cabling.

116. (previously amended) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 114, further comprising a protocol that governs communication over the wired Ethernet link, and the protocol being based on IEEE 802.3-2000.

117. (previously amended) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 116, wherein the operation of the wired Ethernet communication system does not conflict with IEEE 802.3-2000.

118. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 114, wherein the plurality of rates comprise one thousand (1000) Mbps.

119. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 118, wherein the plurality of rates further comprise one hundred (100) Mbps.

120. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 114, wherein the second indication does not identify those of the plurality of rates that are greater than the first rate.



121. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 120, wherein the second indication does not identify a highest rate of the plurality of rates.

122. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 114, wherein the second rate is greater than the first rate.

123. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 114, wherein the second rate is less than the first rate.

124. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 114, wherein the plurality of rates include three or more rates.

125. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 124, wherein the first rate is greater than the second rate.

126. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 124, wherein the second rate is greater than the first rate.

127. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 114, wherein the first rate is a greatest rate of the plurality of rates and the second rate is less than the greatest rate of the plurality of rates.

128. (previously added) The wired Ethernet communication system of claim 114, wherein the first rate is less than a greatest rate of the plurality of rates and the second rate is greater than the first rate.

129. (currently amended) A method for servicing communications between a first wired Ethernet device and a second wired Ethernet device that couple via a wired link, the method comprising:

the first wired Ethernet device auto negotiating with the second wired Ethernet device to determine that link establishment will be attempted at the first supported link speed;

the first wired Ethernet device and the second wired Ethernet device failing to establish a link that could support data communications at the first supported link speed;

the first wired Ethernet device auto negotiating with the second wired Ethernet device to determine that link establishment will be attempted at the second supported link speed;

the first wired Ethernet device and the second wired Ethernet device establishing a link at the second supported link speed; and

the first wired Ethernet device and the second wired Ethernet device exchanging data at the second supported link speed.

130. (previously added) The method of claim 129, wherein:

the first supported link speed is one thousand (1000) Mbps; and

the second supported link speed is one hundred (100) Mbps.

131. (previously added) The method of claim 129, wherein:

the first supported link speed is one hundred (100) Mbps; and

the second supported link speed is ten (10) Mbps.

132. (currently amended) A semiconductor component that communicates via a wired Ethernet link with a communication device, the semiconductor component comprising:

Ethernet transmitter circuitry;

Ethernet receiver circuitry;

auto negotiation circuitry operably coupled to the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and to the Ethernet receiver circuitry, wherein the auto negotiation circuitry generates a first advertisement that includes a first supported link speed and a second supported link speed, wherein the first supported link speed exceeds the second supported link speed;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry sending the first advertisement to the communication device via the wired Ethernet link;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry attempting and failing to establish a communication link with the communication device that could support data communications with the communication device at the first supported link speed;

the auto negotiation circuitry generating a second advertisement that includes the second supported link speed but not the first supported link speed;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry sending the second advertisement to the communication device via the wired Ethernet link;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry establishing a communication link with the communication device at the second supported link speed;  
and

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry communicating data with the communication device at the second supported link speed.

133. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 132, wherein:  
the first supported link speed is one thousand (1000) Mbps; and  
the second supported link speed is one hundred (100) Mbps.

134. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 132, wherein:  
the first supported link speed is one hundred (100) Mbps; and  
the second supported link speed is ten (10) Mbps.

135. (currently amended) A method for servicing communications between a first wired Ethernet device and a second wired Ethernet device that couple via a wired link, the method comprising:

the first wired Ethernet device negotiating with the second wired Ethernet device to determine that link establishment will be attempted at the first supported link speed;

the first wired Ethernet device and the second wired Ethernet device failing to establish a link that could support data communications at the first supported link speed;

the first wired Ethernet device negotiating with the second wired Ethernet device to determine that link establishment will be attempted at the second supported link speed;

the first wired Ethernet device and the second wired Ethernet device establishing a link at the second supported link speed;

the first wired Ethernet device and the second wired Ethernet device exchanging data at the second supported link speed; and

in response to a failure of the link at the second supported link speed:

the first wired Ethernet device negotiating with the second wired Ethernet device to determine that link establishment will be attempted at the first supported link speed; and

the first wired Ethernet device and the second wired Ethernet device attempting to establish a link at the first supported link speed.

136. (previously added) The method of claim 135, wherein:

the first supported link speed is one thousand (1000) Mbps; and

the second supported link speed is one hundred (100) Mbps.

137. (previously added) The method of claim 135, wherein:  
the first supported link speed is one hundred (100) Mbps; and  
the second supported link speed is ten (10) Mbps.

138. (currently amended) A semiconductor component that communicates via a wired Ethernet link with a communication device, the semiconductor component comprising:

Ethernet transmitter circuitry;

Ethernet receiver circuitry;

auto negotiation circuitry operably coupled to the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and to the Ethernet receiver circuitry, wherein the auto negotiation circuitry generates a first advertisement that includes a first supported link speed and a second supported link speed, wherein the first supported link speed exceeds the second supported link speed;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry sending the first advertisement to the communication device via the wired Ethernet link;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry attempting and failing to establish a communication link with the communication device that could support data communications at the first supported link speed ;

the auto negotiation circuitry generating a second advertisement that includes the second supported link speed but not the first supported link speed;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry sending the second advertisement to the communication device via the wired Ethernet link;

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry establishing a communication link with the communication device at the second supported link speed and resultantly communicating data with the communication device at the second supported link speed; and

in response to a failure of the communication link with the communication device at the second supported link speed:

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry sending the first advertisement to the communication device via the wired Ethernet link; and

the Ethernet transmitter circuitry and the Ethernet receiver circuitry attempting to establish a communication link with the communication device at the first supported link speed.

139. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 138, wherein:  
the first supported link speed is one thousand (1000) Mbps; and  
the second supported link speed is one hundred (100) Mbps.

140. (previously added) The semiconductor component of claim 138, wherein:  
the first supported link speed is one hundred (100) Mbps; and  
the second supported link speed is ten (10) Mbps.